

Supplementary Table 2. Risk of Bias Tool designed for the assessment of bias in studies specific to delirium in Palliative Care.
 DSM: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, ICD: International Classification of Diseases

Domains	Signalling questions	Response options	Risk of bias judgments	Rationale / Major applicability concerns
STUDY RISK of BIAS – INTERNAL VALIDITY				
Selection bias/Study Participation	1) Were the characteristics (such as age, disease status, consideration of pre-existing cognitive impairment) of patients clearly described? 2) Was the recruitment strategy random or consecutive? 3) Did the inclusion and exclusion criteria allow for appropriate selection of the target population for the study?	Yes/Probably Yes No/Probably No No information	Low Moderate High Critical	Reviewer's rationale:
Attrition Bias (Relevant for Incidence and Period Prevalence)	1) Was the presence or absence of delirium documented for 80% or more of the study participants? 2) Was there adequate documentation for reasons of missing data (skip if question not applicable)? 3) Were the characteristics similar between the group recruited to the study and the group eventually analyzed?	Yes/Probably Yes No/Probably No No information	Low Moderate High Critical	Reviewer's rationale:
Detection bias	1) Was the diagnosis of delirium performed by a trained/competent assessor? 2) Was the diagnosis of delirium performed by an independent assessor (i.e. not a member of the care team)? 3) In diagnosing delirium, were the gold standard (DSM or ICD) diagnostic criteria for delirium either operationalized directly or applied through use of an objective (requiring patient participation) assessment tool validated against these gold standard criteria? 4) Was the diagnosis of delirium measured in a standard manner for all participants?	Yes/Probably Yes No/Probably No No information	Low Moderate High Critical	Reviewer's rationale:
Data Reporting/ Analyses	1) Were the statistical analyses for the parameters of interest (i.e. incidence/prevalence) appropriate?	Yes/Probably Yes No/Probably No No information	Low Moderate High Critical	Reviewer's rationale:
STUDY APPLICABILITY / EXTERNAL VALIDITY				
Applicability	1) Is this study applicable to the target population as defined by the systematic review protocol*?	Yes/Probably Yes No/Probably No No information	No/Minor concerns Major concerns	Reviewer's rationale:

* POPULATION: All adult (≥ 18 years old) patients receiving or eligible for palliative care. This will include:

- a. patients admitted to an inpatient palliative care unit or hospice;
- b. patients followed by a consulting palliative care team in hospital;
- c. patients having cancer or AIDS as a progressive life threatening illness and are unequivocally eligible for palliative care referral but assessed by an oncology, psychiatry, psycho-oncology or supportive care service;
- d. patients under the care of community palliative care program or community hospice care program

